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**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301****INTELLIGENCE**

31 August 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE****SUBJECT: Special Reconnaissance Activities (U)**

In line with our conversation at breakfast this morning, I believe it would be helpful to look in some detail at consolidation alternatives for Air Force and CIA special reconnaissance aircraft with the object of obtaining management efficiencies and other cost savings.

Accordingly, I would appreciate it if you could have some alternatives developed which might offer economies in the management of such programs. It would be particularly interesting to review alternatives for the consolidation of all SR-71, OXCART, and U-2 activities, and alternatives which compare contract and "blue suit" maintenance options. It may also be useful to explore the notion of consolidating drone operations with these manned assets.

It would be helpful if a preliminary report of the analysis and tentative alternatives were available by 15 November and a final report, to include recommendations, by 15 December.

If you wish, I would be happy to provide an individual from my staff to participate in the analysis effort.

**OSD REVIEW  
COMPLETED  
NRO review(s) completed.**

*Albert C. Hall/gcr*  
Albert C. Hall

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. EXEMPTION CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_ Para 5B(2)&(3)  
DECLASSIFY ON \_\_\_\_\_  
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